

Message Text

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44

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6003

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: JERUALEM POST ARTICLES ON MIDEAST

NEGOTIATIONS AND U.S.--ISRAEL RELATIONS

1. BLITZER ARTICLE IN JERUSALEM POST, MAR H 25, AFTER SUMMARIZING WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT USG IS REASSESSING ITS POLICIES TOWRDS ALL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES INCLUDING ISRAEL, STATES" ISRAELI OFFICIALS HERE WERE OPENLY SURPRISED BY THE U.S. STATEMENT." BLITZER CONTINUES BY NOTING THAT PRESIDENT FORD LAST THUSDAY SENT MESSAGE TO GOI WARNING THAT U.S WILL HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT ITS MIDDLE EAST POLCIEIS IF THE NEGOTAITIOSN COLLAPSED. " RABIN AND ISRAEL OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ATTEMPTED TO DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT MESSAGE, BUT WASHINGTON'S OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY APPEARED TO CONFIRM SOME OF ISRAEL'S WORST FEARS REGARDING A POSSIBLE HARDONING IN U.S.--ISRAEL RELATIONS." BLITZER THEN ADDS THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ADMITTED THAT AMERICA'S OFFICIAL STATEMENTS YESTERDAY WERE NOT " VERY NICE." THEY COULD NOT SPECULATE ON THE REASONS, FOR THEM, INSISTING THAT THEY WRE SURPRISD.

2. IN SEPARATE FRONTPAGE ARTICEL BY WASHINGTON JERUSALEM POST CORRESPONDENT , SECRETARY IS QUOTED AS TELLING REPORTERS

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AFTE BRIEFING OF SENAT FOREING RELATIONS COMMITTEE

THAT " THERE IS NO QUESTION OF CUTTING OFF" AID TO ANY COUNTRY IN THE MIDDLEEAST, " WE ARE NOT NEGAGED IN ANY PUNITIVE ACTION HERE," HE SAID. SECRETARY HAD BEEN ASKED IF U.S. WAS PLANNING TO "LESSEN" AID, BUT HIS ANSWER REFERRED TO CUTOFF" OF AID. ARTICLE NOTES THAT SECRETARY DID NOT SAY WHETHER THERE COULD BE A LESSENING OF U.S. AID TO ISRAEL OR OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES UNDER THE U.S. REASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, AS STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED.

3. IN REPORTING ON MARCH 23 KNESSET DEBATE ON NEGOTIATIONS (SEPTEL) JERUSALEM POST NOTES THAT LIKUD MK SHMUEL TAMIR HAS DEMANDED A TP LEVEL PROBE OF THE LEAK TO THE PRESS ABOUT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER RABIN. TAMIR PUT FORWARD HIS DEMAND IN A LETTER TO YITZHAK NOVAO, CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE.
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